

III. REMARKS

1. Claims 1-22 remain in the application. Claim 23 has been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1, 19, and 21 have been amended.

2. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-6, 9, 12-15, and 19-22 are patentable over the combination of Lesaint et al. (US 6,578,005, "Lesaint") and Clark (Developing Operating Procedures for Projects Involving Multiple Organizations Using a Linear Responsibility Chart, "Clark") under 35 USC 103(a).

The combination of Lesaint and Clark fails to disclose or suggest

representing a connection between each relationship identifier corresponding to a different resource and relating to a particular task,

as substantially recited by claims 1, 19, and 21.

The Examiner properly points out that Lesaint fails to disclose or suggest this feature. Applicant respectfully submits that Clark also fails to provide or imply this feature.

Clark shows and describes a linear responsibility chart that provides actions in rows and individuals or groups in columns. One or more responsibility codes are placed in the cells of the chart to indicate the responsibilities of the individuals or groups relative to the actions.

The present claims are different because they include representing a connection between relationship identifiers that correspond to different resources. The present claims provide for relationship identifiers corresponding to different resources but all related to a particular task. The relationship identifiers corresponding to different resources are connected to provide a visual representation of the relationship identifiers corresponding to different resources all relating to particular task. In contrast, Clark discloses different responsibility codes associated with the same resource and a particular task. There is no connection between responsibility codes corresponding to different resources.

Because neither reference discloses or suggest this feature, the combination of Lesaint and Clark fails to disclose or suggest all the features of independent claims 1, 19, and 21 and fails to render claims 1-6, 9, 12-15, and 19-22 unpatentable.

3. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 7 and 16-18 are patentable over the combination of Lesaint, Clark and "Examiners Official Notice" under 35 USC 103(a).

Claims 7 and 16-18 depend from claim 1. The Examiners Official Notice fails to disclose or suggest the features of claim 1 missing from the combination of Lesaint and Clark, that is, representing a connection between each relationship identifier corresponding to a different resource and relating to a particular task.

Therefore, the combination of Lesaint, Clark and Examiners Official Notice fails to disclose or suggest all the features of claim 1 and fails to render claims 7 and 16-18 unpatentable.


4. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 11 is patentable over the combination of Lesaint, Clark and Bui et al. (US 6,578,005, "Bui") under 35 USC 103(a).

Claim 11 depends from claim 1. Bui, line the other references, fails to supply the feature of claim 1 missing from the combination of Lesaint and Clark as argued above. Therefore, the combination of Lesaint, Clark and Bui fails to render claim 11 unpatentable.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,


Joseph V. Gamberdell, Jr.
Reg. No. 44,695

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Date

Perman & Green, LLP
99 Hawley Lane
Stratford, CT 06614
(203) 259-1800
Customer No.: 2512